

Serial No.: 10/068,545

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Action dated as mailed on 26 September 2003. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This response is timely filed as it is filed within the one (1) month shortened
5 statutory period provided for responding to the outstanding Office Action.

Claims 1-27 remain in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Under 35 U.S.C. §121, election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits has been required and to which elected single disclosed species the
10 claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Action asserts that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species 1: represented by FIG. 1; and

Species 2: represented by FIG. 4.

15 The Action also alleges that no claim is currently generic.

In response thereto and with traverse, Applicant elects Species 1 (represented by FIG. 1). Of the pending claims (i.e., claims 1-27), claims 1-19 and 21-27 are believed to be readable on the above-elected species.

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The subject election of species requirement has been traversed at least to the extent that the Action alleges that no claim is currently generic. In particular, at least claims 1-19 and 21-27 are believed to be generic to species 1 and 2, as the term "generic claim" is defined in MPEP 806.04(d).

5 In this regards it is further noted that upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form of otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim, as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Conclusion

10 It is believed that the above elections are properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and that the application is in condition for substantive examination. Should the Examiner detect any issue or have any question which might be resolved via a telephone discussion, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (847) 490-1400, in an effort to expedite
15 examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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